

21st October 1927]

Alleged reduction of Ayyaswami Pillai.

* 798 Q.—Mr. BASHEER AHMAD SAYEED: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that one Ayyaswami Pillai, who had been acting as Head Clerk in the Government Press since 1919 and who was originally allowed to draw an increment of Rs. 5 in the grade of Rupees 125—5—175, was not made permanent when the post fell vacant, but was reduced to the post of a mere clerk on Rs. 85—4—125 at first in the year 1925 and then further reduced to the grade of Rs. 65—4—85 in the year 1926;

(b) if so, whether any definite charges were framed against the said Ayyaswami Pillai and whether he was given an opportunity to defend himself, and if not, why not;

(c) whether the Government will lay on the table a statement of the causes that led to the severe punishments meted out to the said Ayyaswami Pillai, a permanent accountant of ten years' standing; and

(d) whether the Government propose to make an enquiry into the matter of Ayyaswami Pillai and redress his grievances, if any?

A.—(a) The facts are substantially as stated.

(b) Yes.

(c) Neglect of duty, incompetence and inefficiency.

(d) No.

Mr. BASHEER AHMAD SAYEED:—“May I know, Sir, whether the said Ayyaswami Pillai appealed to the Government against the punishment that was inflicted on him and what orders were passed on that?”

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—
“Notice.”

Reasons for the retention of the acting Accountant in the Government Press.

* 799 Q.—Mr. BASHEER AHMAD SAYEED: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that when the permanent Accountant was reduced to the post of a clerk in the Government Press, an outsider was brought in as acting Accountant for working the commercial system of accounts, and if so, why other deserving men in the department were superseded;

(b) whether it is a fact that the said acting Accountant was condemned by the Government Commercial Accountant and whether another Accountant was appointed on a salary of Rs. 100 for introducing commercial accounts;

(c) if so, whether the Government are aware that the acting Accountant, who was already condemned by the Government Commercial Accountant, is still retained and made a permanent Accountant in spite of his alleged inefficiency;

(d) if so, whether the Government will state what peculiar circumstances led to the retention of the services of the said Accountant, and who is responsible for such appointments in the Government Press; and

(e) whether the Government will cause an enquiry to be made into the matter and necessary action to be taken thereon?

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A.—(a) The hon. Member presumably refers to the appointment of M.R.Ry. N. Raghunatha Ayyar as an Accountant in the Government Press in January 1925 when M.R.Ry. R. Ayyaswami Pillai was reverted from the post of head clerk in which he was then officiating to that of an ordinary clerk. M.R.Ry. Raghunatha Ayyar was not recruited to work the commercial system of accounts. His appointment was found necessary because there was no one in the Press who had passed the tests prescribed for the Accountant's post.

(b), (c) & (d) M.R.Ry. Raghunatha Ayyar was competent for and keen on the work for the performance of which he was recruited and he was confirmed in that post from 1st October 1925. His knowledge of a commercial system of accounts has no bearing on the question of his confirmation in the Accountant's post. A separate Accountant was appointed to work the commercial system.

(e) The Government do not consider that any enquiry is necessary.

Alleged discontent of the employees of the Government Press.

* 800 Q.—Mr. BASHEER AHMAD SAYEED: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received complaints that the promotions and reductions and dismissals in the Government Press service have become very arbitrary, unjust and numerous for the last one or two years, and that the general state of affairs in the Government Press is far from satisfactory so far as the services are concerned; and

(b) whether the Government will consider the desirability of instituting a thorough enquiry into the grievances of the Press employees at an early date and take necessary action to alleviate the discontent prevailing in the department?

A.—(a) The answer is in the negative.

(b) The Government do not consider that such an enquiry is necessary.

Alleged dismissal of three compositors in the Government Press.

* 801 Q.—Mr. BASHEER AHMAD SAYEED: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that three compositors were dismissed for taking part in the employees' agitation for redress of grievances;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Superintendent of the Government Press holds the formation of an association or union of employees in the Press with the help of outside public workers as unconstitutional; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the employees of the Government Press are threatened directly and indirectly with punishments if they join the Union or take an active part in the affairs of the Union?